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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

For the year, 1939.

By.

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M. D., D.P.H.,

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Workington.
February, 1940.

MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON PORT

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. H. R. Clucas. (Chairman).

Mr. J. A. Cape.	Mr. J. Poole.
" P. Dalton.	" W. G. Taylor.
" J. C. Thompson.	" S. Walker,
" E. Davies.	" A. V. Cattrell.
" W. A. Palmer.	

Mr. Thomas Jackson.....Clerk to the Authority.

R.W.Macpherson.M.D.,D.P.H.,...Port Medical Officer.

W. Eadie,M.D.,.....Deputy Port Medical Officer.

R. James,M.R.S.I.,.....Sanitary Inspector.

K. Ketley,A.R.S.I.,.....Assistant Sanitary Inspector.
Resigned 5.8.39.

S.M.Carruthers,A.R.S.I.,.....Assistant Sanitary Inspector.
Appointed 1.9.39.

Town Hall,

Workington,

February, 1940.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1939, of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE WORKINGTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1939.

The Report has been prepared and modified in accordance with Circular 1937 of the Ministry of Health dated 11th. January, 1940, with a view to avoiding as far as possible the disclosure of information relating to the movements of ships, &c., Furthermore in view of the present emergency the Minister suggests that the Report should not be published, a small number of copies being reproduced for the necessary minimum circulation to the Authority and the Ministry.

1. - Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year.

	By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector.	Number reported to be defective.	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied.	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on Board.
Vessels inspected.	75.	435.	87.	79.	1.

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2. - Water Supply.

Details of this service have been previously described. There is a plentiful and continuous supply of fresh water to meet all requirements. The supply was chemically and bacteriologically examined during the year and was found satisfactory.

3. - Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

The existing approved arrangements have continued to work smoothly, and I have to record my appreciation of the assistance rendered by H.M.Customs Officers to the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

During the year one vessel reported sickness during the voyage. Apparently the majority of the crew had suffered from Malaria Fever, but upon arriving in Port the condition of three members warranted their removal to Isolation Hospital. Eighteen other reports of sickness were received from other vessels, but all proved of a non-infectious character.

A number of seamen required treatment for Venereal Diseases, and instruction cards were issued affording free treatment at the County Council Clinics at Whitehaven and Carlisle. Owing to distance, inconvenience of transport, treatment hours and various other disadvantages, I am firmly of the opinion that the existing facilities are not utilised by seamen requiring treatment, and the establishment of a clinic at Workington is long overdue.

The question of vermin on vessels continues to receive careful attention, and rigorous disinfestation methods are adopted whenever the slightest trace of vermin is discovered.

The Master of a foreign vessel applied to land and place in cold storage nine sheep carcases. Permission was refused in accordance with the Animals (Importation) Order, 1930, the decision was later confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, London.

4. - Measures against Rodents.

All vessels were carefully examined for the presence of rats, and in two instances the Masters of vessels were requested to put rat guards on mooring ropes as a matter of precaution. Deratisation Certificates were examined and in three instances were found to have expired. Notices were given to renew at the first available Approved Port.

During the year the Harbour and Dockside were periodically examined for the presence of rats.

5. - Hygiene of Crew's Spaces.

CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin, and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British.	388.	-	67.	30.
Other Nations.	47.	-	9.	8.

During the year 85 informal notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector for various defects or other conditions prejudicial to health. No Statutory Notices were served, but in two instances I communicated with other Port Authorities to follow up work that had to be carried out when the vessel sailed.

6. - General.

The foreshore has been periodically inspected during the year, and the carcases of two porpoises, one shark and a whale that had been washed up were removed and destroyed.

During the year a Seamen's Institution was opened on the Quayside under the charge of the Port Missioner (Mr. D. J. Hopkins) of the Seamen's Christian Friend Society. This is a valuable asset to the Port, and I wish to record my appreciation to the Port Missioner for the prompt and willing co-operation in respect to the welfare of seamen, particularly in providing clothing in necessary cases and looking after convalescing seamen.

The Dock and Harbour have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

I must again record my appreciation to the Harbour Master, H.M.Customs and the Sanitary Inspector for their co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer to the Authority.